

that the species was found at an altitude of 5-7,000 feet but no specimen could be located at CAL and BSIS except the above cited two specimens which were collected from places of much lower altitude.

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B. KRISHNA

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## REFERENCE

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22. CULTIVATION OF *VERNONIA SHEVAROYENSIS* GAMBLE (ASTERACEAE) — AN ENDEMIC AND ENDANGERED PLANT IN THE SOUTHERN EXPERIMENTAL GARDEN, BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

This note relates to a tree namely *Vernonia shevaroyensis* Gamble which is endemic to Shevaroy hills of Tamilnadu and is endangered. Collections of the species from its type locality were made by different collectors and deposited in the different herbaria of the Botanical Survey of India viz. Madras Herbarium (MH) and BSA. The details of collections are furnished in Table 1. Narayana (1979) has also collected the plant material from its type locality for his studies on trichomes of 15 species. *V. shevaroyensis* Gamble is a tall tree of c. 15 m in height, and grows near a perennial stream flowing through a private Coffee estate of Marapalam area (i.e. Kakasholey stream), on the way to Nagalur of Shevaroy hills at an altitude of approx. 1350 m. The species is considered a threatened species (Henry *et al.* 1978) as it has never been collected away from its type locality, and even there only a single well grown plant occurs.

The restricted distribution of the plant in its type locality may be due to ecological preference and self-sterility of its seeds, which is common in Asteraceae (Walters 1979).

To save the plant from extinction it was decided by the Southern Circle of Botanical Survey of India to increase the plant population either by seed or vegetative propagation in the Experimental Garden at Yercaud, Shevaroy hills, and to conserve the tree in its natural habitat.

Fresh seeds were collected and sown for germination trials on different occasions but failed to germinate.

Thirty-five cuttings of soft and hard wood were brought in the month of August, 1979 and treated with 'Seradix' a commercial formulation of May & Baker for trial. Similarly, a second attempt was made by bringing fifty cuttings in the month of November, 1979. All the cuttings were watered regularly on the

TABLE 1

DETAIL OF HERBARIUM SHEETS OF *Vernonia shevaroyensis* GAMBLE

Place of collection	Altitude	Date of collections	Collected by	Name of the Herbarium where deposited	Remarks
Kakasholey area, Marapalam, Nagalur Road, Yercaud, Salem Dt.	1350 m.	15.4.1966	A. V. N. Rao	B. S. I. (MH), Coimbatore-3. Fld. No. 27460.	Tree, flowers pale blue.
—do—	—do—	29.8.1979	A. K. Banerjee	B. S. I. (BSA), Allahabad-2. Fld. No. 31404.	—

non-rainy days as the Experimental Garden gets two monsoon in a year. There is no rain in the month of October.

It was observed that only four cuttings from the first trial showed new growth after a lapse of forty-five days, and none of the cuttings showed any rooting response in the second trial group. Out of the four cuttings one did not establish due to damage caused by some pathogens while the others are growing luxuriantly

under better care and have established this rare species in the Experimental Garden.

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